

**Statement of Senator Judd Gregg**  
**GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2003**  
**October 14, 2003**

This is important legislation. It has been 6 years in gestation. It is legislation which is not only important to our research community but, more importantly, it is a major piece of civil rights legislation in that it protects people in their employment and in getting health care.

Essentially, we are in a new world in the community of health care where you will actually be able to go to your doctor someday not too long from now, and probably in some instances even today, and he will be able to tell you some of the most severe illnesses projected for your lifetime. That is called genetic information. It is great medical news that we have moved this far, and there is a lot that will occur that is positive as a result.

The other side of the coin is this information could be used arbitrarily, unsuspectingly, or even intentionally to harm your employment or your capacity to get health insurance. This legislation corrects that concern. It makes it possible to continue genetics research without people having to be concerned about the way their personal genetics information may be used. That is why it is important.

A lot of folks have worked very hard on this bill. Senator Kennedy has worked tirelessly to pass it. Senator Daschle has worked aggressively to pass it. Senator Jeffords, when he was chairman of the committee, worked very hard.

On our side of the aisle, Senator Enzi has made a major contribution in the area of employment, and Senator Snowe was one of the originators of the initiative.